

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 - 47 (cancelled)

Claim 48 [new]: A fence mounting device adapted for mounting a silt fence to a fence post, the fence mounting device including: a main body which is mountable to the fence post; and an attachment means mounted on the main body to which the fence can be releasably secured; wherein tensioning means are provided, which are suitable for tensioning an upper portion of the silt fence, the arrangement being such that, when the upper portion of the silt fence is secured in the attachment, rotating the attachment means and the main body tightens the fence against the main body.

Claim 49 [new]: A fence mounting device in accordance with claim 48 wherein the main body includes a cap which is adapted to be fitted over a top end portion of the fence post, the cap including a dome shaped upper portion with a skirt extending downwardly therefrom, the attachment means being in the form of a cleat, secured to or integral with the cap body.

Claim 50 [new]: A fence mounting device in accordance with claim 48 wherein a silt fence is provided, constructed from a fine mesh material.

Claim 51 [new]: A fence mounting device in accordance with claim 50 wherein the material includes eyelets which can be placed over the cleat elements to retain it in position on the mounting device.

Claim 52 [new]: A fence mounting device in accordance with claim 50 wherein a belt is sewn into a hem in a top edge of the barrier, the hem having slots through which the belt may be withdrawn to fasten the belt to the cleats.

Claim 53 [new]: A fence mounting device in accordance with claim 48 wherein the mounting device is adapted to be mounted to fence posts of the type commonly referred to as star posts, having an elongated body with a plurality of radially extending flanges angularly disposed with respect to one another, the flanges extending the length of the post, and extending generally radially from a central axis of the post body.

Claim 54 [new]: A fence mounting device in accordance with claim 48 wherein the tensioning device is in the form of a socket.

Claim 55 [new]: A fence mounting device in accordance with claim 48 wherein the tensioning means is a ratchet so that the main body does not need to be removed from the post in order to tension the upper portion.

Claim 56 [new]: A fence mounting device in accordance with claim 55 wherein the ratchet is in the form of one or more angled teeth which are molded into the internal walls of the main body and project into a hollow section of the main body.

Claim 57 [new]: A fence mounting device in accordance with claim 56 wherein the teeth are arranged such that when the main body is rotated in a tightening direction, the teeth

are forced flat against the internal walls of the main body by edges or walls of the post, and when tension in the fence causes the main body to rotate in a loosening direction, the teeth are forced into an open locking position, extending further into the hollow section by the walls or edges of the post, inhibiting rotation of the main body relative to the post.

Claim 58 [new]: A fence mounting device in accordance with claim 54 wherein the ratchet or socket includes locking recesses defined by spaced, tapering dividers extending from inner skirt walls so as to lock several sizes of star picket and square posts.

Claim 59 [new]: A fence mounting device in accordance with claim 49 wherein the skirt includes one or more recesses for receiving a belt so as to improve and simplify smooth running and tying of the belt around the attachment means.

Claim 60 [new]: A fence mounting device in accordance with claim 59 wherein the recesses are one or more cut outs adjacent the attachment means, the cut outs at the base of the skirt.

Claim 61 [new]: A fence mounting device in accordance with claim 48 wherein ribs are provided to support edges of posts received by the main body and to promote tight fit of cap on post.

Claim 62 [new]: A fence mounting device in accordance with claim 58 wherein the dividers taper inwardly in order that smaller posts are supported deeper within the main body.